

26 June 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Consolidated Chapter VIII Treatment for NIS Areas 43 A thru D
25X1A9a

1. Memorandum from [REDACTED] dated 20 June 1956 (attached) indicates that Sections 83 on NIS 43A through C are very light in treatment and do not warrant individual publication. Section 83 on NIS 43D, however, is acceptable and is to be published in a normal fashion.
2. Discussion with Col. Gaines on this subject revealed that Air Force is anxious to publish these Sections 83, feeling that the small amount of information would be of considerable assistance to the Air Force and to the planners. Attempting to incorporate these in the corresponding Sections 80 as proposed by PGB is infeasible inasmuch as the Sections 81 should precede the publication of Sections 80, and the former are already firmly scheduled for Fiscal Years 1958-59, with the exception of Section 81 on NIS 43 (Communist Ground Forces) which is already in print.
3. The editorial staff agrees to publish as originally scheduled the four Sections 83 on Areas 43A through D, with the understanding that consolidated Chapters VIII for each of the segmented areas of NIS 43 will be developed in our production schedule and will reflect maintenance on the four Sections 83. This is agreed to by Col. Gaines for the Air Force.
4. In consequence, it will be necessary to work out with the Chapter VIII coordinator a consolidated chapter treatment for Chapter VIII on each of the four segmented areas for NIS 43. This should be done in time to incorporate them into the NIS production forecast scheduled this fall.

cc: RHB
PGB

DOCUMENT NO.
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHG. BY [REDACTED]
NEXT REVIEW DATE [REDACTED]
AUTH: [REDACTED]
D-24 NOV 1971

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Chapt VIII

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : PGB

a → KAK

DATE 20 June 1956

FROM : CGF

SUBJECT: Publication of 43A(83), 43B(83), 43C(83)

The suitability of the Sections (briefed below) for publication in the NIS is questionable. Their intelligence worth is negligible, and I am hesitant to process the texts without specific instructions and guidance.

43A(83): The Cambodian air force is a small branch of the army, has a strength of 224 personnel and 32 liaison and light transport aircraft. All of its 19 airfields except Phnom Penh are very minor installations, and Phnom Penh would require substantial development to provide a satisfactory military base of operations.

The Section text is 16 pages long; after deletion of irrelevant material on geography, surface transportation, and ground forces, the text would cover about 9½ manuscript pages.

43B(83): The Laotian air force is "an ineffectual air arm of the Laotian army," according to the text. Personnel strength is 284, and the aircraft inventory is 20 transport and liaison types of loan from the French. Of the 18 air facilities, none is a major airfield; "the air facility system could contribute nothing for or against United Nations interests in any major war effort," according to the script. Text pages number 22; deletion of inappropriate material would reduce them to about 15.

43C(83): The first sentence of this Section on North Vietnam is: "Viet Minh, formerly Northern Vietnam has no known air force." The text is necessarily written in the conditional — for example, the discussion of logistics begins: "A great weakness of a Viet Minh air force, were one developed, would be the complete lack of industrial support."

Many of the 26 air facilities are in a poor state of repair, and if fully operational would be capable of supporting only liaison and light transport aircraft.

On the other hand 43D(83), now being processed (and the subject of a separate memo), is a fairly acceptable document, not only on the basis of the substantive material in the Section but also the prospective development of the air force it covers.

To : KAK

— 1st Ind —

20 Jun 56

A can of worms. In addition to that 43 (81) on Red ground forces, in print is a 1952 43 (83) which deals solely with French air plus allegedly all air facilities. See 80's for 43C and 43B scheduled for FY58; for 43A and 43E scheduled to be outstanding at end FY57. Deferring these 3 pathetic 83's would involve 1) question of credit to AFCEE and 2) whether this thin content should be handled in 80's and 3) whether earlier scheduling of related 80's for 43A, 43B would be desirable/feasible.